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Atty. Dkt. No. 016790/0398

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gerhard HOPPEN
Title: DUV-CAPABLE MICROSCOPE OBJECTIVE
WITH PARFOCAL IR FOCUS
Appl. No.: 09/598,406
Filing Date: June 21, 2000
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2872

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF
RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of Document A2 is described in the present specification. An English translation of the German language document is not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is attached. Document A1 corresponds to Document A2.

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b) within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

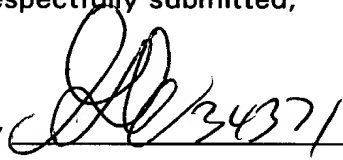
Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 20, 2000

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